

University of North Carolina Wilmington SPRING 2012 magazine

UNCW

DARE TO
SOAR

UNC
Wilmington



UNCW



DARE TO SOAR

Alumni and friends,

Since arriving in Wilmington last July, Georgia and I have been warmly welcomed by the UNCW community and the people of Wilmington and Southeastern North Carolina. We have had the opportunity to visit alumni and friends throughout North Carolina as well as in Washington, D.C., Boston and Los Angeles. The Seahawk nation extends far and wide and UNCW graduates are making a positive difference in all walks of life. We are most grateful for the support and good wishes we have received.

In April we celebrated our university and our community in a series of events leading up to my official installation on April 20. By every measure UNCW is one of the finest universities in the nation. We have a superb faculty and staff, an important and relevant mission and a commitment to our community. We are, as I said in accepting this position in May 2011, a university on the move.

To retain our leadership role in this important time I believe we have to embrace three important values: a commitment to the journey of learning, a love of our place as North Carolina's Coastal University and a conviction in the power of ideas and innovation. In the coming years, with your help, we will work to advance the mission of this university within these enduring values.

Within the pages of this magazine, you will see evidence of how we are putting our most important values into action. I hope you will be inspired by the great work of our faculty, staff and students. And, I hope you will share your ideas about the future of UNCW with me. You can reach me by email at chancellor@uncw.edu or you can connect with me on Twitter: @UNCWChancellor.

Thank you for your dedication to UNCW and your involvement in the life of our university. As we Dare to Soar into the future we will need your continued support.

Go Seahawks!

Sincerely,

Gary L. Miller
Chancellor

University of North Carolina Wilmington **magazine**

UNCW

Spring 2012

Volume 22 Number 1

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On the cover:

Following his formal installation as chancellor, Gary L. Miller presents his vision for the University of North Carolina Wilmington. A crowd of about 1,500 alumni, friends, students, faculty and staff attended the ceremony in front of Hoggard Hall. *UNCW/Jamie Moncrief*



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Seahawk Country



painting the town teal

by Caroline Cropp '99, '06M

If you are seeing more teal and signs around town welcoming you to Seahawk Country, you can thank **Jenni Harris '91**. She aims to “paint the town teal” with billboards and banners so residents and visitors have a constant physical awareness of UNCW.

Harris, who returned to campus in September 2011 in the newly created position of assistant to the chancellor for community partnerships, also wants to further the awareness that UNCW is not limited to its South College Road location.

When she first talked to Chancellor Gary Miller about her job, she made a sketch where “UNCW was like a spider. There was an arm to Brunswick County, one to Onslow, one to Pender, another to Jacksonville,” she explained.

In her new role, Harris is poised to further outreach and strengthen those connections. She sees an opportunity to market all the resources UNCW has and to establish unique partnerships. “The business school shouldn’t just reach into the business world—it’s about *all* that UNCW has; not just about the obvious,” she said.

At the same time, Harris believes that enhancing the university’s visibility is not just about UNCW, but also about the community. Coming in from the corporate side, she is looking to further what is often referred to as “town and gown” in academia jargon—increasing university and city interaction, having more discussion with the public, opening a dialogue with city and county leaders and offering corporate tours on campus.

“It’s about being an open resource, not just the campus being open to the public for events and athletics. It’s important to show people who didn’t go to UNCW why the school is always high in national rankings,” she said.

One such example is partnering with the City of Wilmington mayor’s office to host Business Leaders Summits. These quarterly breakfasts with invited guests are a forum to discuss issues that matter most in the community and how UNCW and the community can partner to find solutions for those issues.

Harris said true community partnerships don’t happen by “writing a check and walking away or coming to campus for a meeting. We must establish tangible, well-rounded programs.”

By having more corporate/campus interaction Harris said, “We can show what’s inside...show how the research that goes on inside UNCW labs and classrooms can truly help a company. Providing student interns are good first steps, but we can go further by establishing a full-fledged research and development program, establishing jobs for students before they graduate and having faculty serve as advisors to companies.”

One of two major projects Harris has spearheaded was to establish the Entrepreneurship Center as a limited liability company, to take it regional to promote continued growth and to provide greater flexibility to support entrepreneurship and innovation. The other, announced in March, is for UNCW to become the permanent home to Art for the Masses, a longstanding community arts event; its first time on the UNCW campus is Nov. 17.

Harris reflected on the time that has passed from her days as a student. “A good stage has been set by previous leaders. We are in a place to succeed with research, innovation and partnerships. The growth has been tremendous, now it’s what we can do with the growth.”

Entrepreneurship Center change supports innovation

After years of helping businesses like Fuzzy Peach and Coastal Cupcakes soar, the UNCW Entrepreneurship Center is flying to new heights as a limited liability company (LLC) under the auspices of the UNCW Research Foundation. *by Joy Davis '06*



Previously part of the Cameron School of Business, the center is being repositioned to ensure its continued growth and to provide it with greater flexibility to support entrepreneurship and innovation in Southeastern North Carolina. The center will continue to facilitate business growth, jobs and innovation through mentorship and educational programs.

"Supporting entrepreneurship is critically important to the region's economic future. The new organizational model will position UNCW's Entrepreneurship Center to better support future growth in the eight counties of Southeastern North Carolina," said Chancellor Gary L. Miller. "The reorganization will enable the center to become more nimble and innovative as it expands its programs and creates new initiatives. The center will also assist UNCW in its innovation and commercialization efforts, such as MARBIONC."

Since its inception in 2009, the Entrepreneurship Center has served the community by linking emerging and high-growth ventures, entrepreneurs and organizations in partnerships with

area business leaders, organizations and initiatives, such as the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce's Cape Fear Future.

"With this new structure, UNCW will be able to provide the center with a stronger platform to meet the needs of the region's entrepreneurship community while also providing an easier mechanism for supporters and donors to have a greater impact on entrepreneurship," said Jonathan Rowe, the center's director and managing director of the LLC.

Rowe is charged with developing an expanded business plan for the center, which was previously operated with university and membership funds. With the help of donors, he hopes to make the center self-sustaining within the next few years. UNCW Chief of Staff Max Allen will serve as the foundation's executive director.

"It is exciting to see UNCW and the community rallying together to reinforce the importance of entrepreneurship and its role in our region's economic future," Rowe said.

Jonathan Rowe led a discussion by Oliver Mellan '09, Lauren Krakauskas, Justin Mitchener and Zach Crain, creators of Freaker USA, before a group of more than 125 students during the Wells Fargo Entrepreneurial Speaker Series. The Freaker USA crew shared stories of how they met, created a product, formed a company and drove across country selling their unique knit beverage holders. UNCW/Katherine Freshwater

Since its inception, the UNCW Entrepreneurship Center:

- Indirectly created 52 jobs and 27 student internships for area startup companies and small businesses
- Helped startup companies secure \$5.2 million in equity financing through its signature Rocket Pitch events and meetings facilitated by the center
- Recruited three businesses and helped launch 12 new startup companies in the region, three owned by UNCW graduates
- Educated area small business owners through 52 entrepreneur speakers and classes, 62 individual advice sessions and 18 training seminars
- Was named one of the Top 20 Emerging Entrepreneurship Centers in the nation by the Financial Services Forum as part of a Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation research report



“Through the Honors College, I have been given the opportunities that I never dreamed of doing when I was an incoming freshman. The Honors College is the foundation for my lifelong career.”
Matthew Birk, junior marine biology major, plans to be a professor and research scientist studying octopus behavior.

Profile of UNCW Honors Scholars College students

- 67% female
- 66% from North Carolina
- 10% minority
- 1300 SAT (verbal/math)
- 4.2 high school GPA
- Over half in high school club leadership positions
- Over half varsity athletes
- Top majors: marine biology, biology, chemistry, psychology, nursing and English

by Marybeth Bianchi

honors extends reach across university

The UNCW Honors Scholars College, officially dedicated in September 2011, is built on a tradition of mentoring undergraduates in research and other scholarly activity that has been emphasized for more than 40 years.

“For many students, being a part of honors is a huge part of the undergraduate experience, a part that I know gave me a head start in pursuing my M.S. degree after graduating from UNCW in 2004,” said Rebecka Brasso who went on to get a master’s at the College of William and Mary. She is now pursuing her Ph.D. in marine science at UNCW, while working as a graduate assistant in the UNCW Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, a support service for students administered by the Honors College.

“In addition to the experience of completing an honors project, the course work in the honors program provides invaluable experiential learning opportunities—making students think critically in the classroom while offering the chance to travel abroad to experience what was discussed in class,” she said.

While students had been completing senior honors projects at UNCW since the mid-1960s, a centralized four-year program with a full curriculum wasn’t established until 1994. Since then, more than 2,220 students have benefited from the experience. In July 2011, the program was elevated to “college” status and now provides oversight of all undergraduate research support on campus, for all students, not just honors students.

Brasso explained that “the change means the program has expanded its scope and function. It’s true we have grown, but more than that, the program has extended its reach on campus by promoting undergraduate research, allowing faculty to explore new teaching techniques and developing a vibrant residential community.

“UNCW Honors is a nationally known program that features innovation and opportunity. Our students and faculty are the foundation—they have made the move to Honors Scholars College possible.”

Honors Scholars College **uncw.edu/honors**

Center for the Support of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships **uncw.edu/csurf**

Honors Scholars College newsletters **uncw.edu/honors/newsletters.html**

by Andrea Weaver

coastal health

UNCW created a comprehensive care package for Southeastern North Carolina by forming the College of Health and Human Services.

UNC Wilmington students work in the School of Nursing's simulation learning center with a volunteer patient.

UNCW/Jamie Moncrief

"Few issues are more compelling, and more fundamental to UNCW, than the health and welfare of the people who live in Southeastern North Carolina," Chancellor Gary L. Miller said. "We established the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) to strengthen our focus on helping individuals, families and communities live healthier, more prosperous and more productive lives."

The college connects the Schools of Health and Applied Human Sciences, Nursing and Social Work, creating more opportunities for students, faculty and staff to collaborate with each other as well as regional health and wellness partners, such as area medical centers, schools and public health programs.

About 1,300 students, or 10 percent of the university's student body, are in enrolled in CHHS programs. The college includes about 110 faculty members who teach, conduct research and manage outreach programs that focus on health promotion and maintenance, prevention of illness, and the restoration of physical, mental and social well-being.

"While our efforts will have wide-ranging effects across the state and the nation, our primary focus will be on underserved communities and populations in Southeastern North Carolina," said Charles J. Hardy, the college's founding dean.



Like the rest of North Carolina and the nation, UNCW's home region faces shortages of nurses, social workers and other health professionals. The region's poverty rate exceeds the state average, according to the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center. More than 30 percent of the adults in every county in Southeastern North Carolina except New Hanover County are obese, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Under Hardy's leadership, the college is creating a "coastal health" concept that focuses on enhancing the quality of life in Southeastern North Carolina. Potential projects will study various factors that affect quality of life: health and wealth disparities, water quality concerns and community responses to natural disasters.

The college hopes to partner with other universities to offer even more degree options, work with regional companies

and the UNCW Center for Marine Science to develop pharmaceuticals from the sea, and encourage foundations and state and federal agencies to fund community health education programs.

All of these efforts will help CHHS continue doing what it does best, which is provide UNCW students with real-world learning opportunities while helping the community.

"Through in-class and field experiences, our students develop and apply knowledge regarding illness, health, wellness and human needs, while recognizing and building upon the innate strengths and dignity of individuals and communities in which they work," Hardy said.

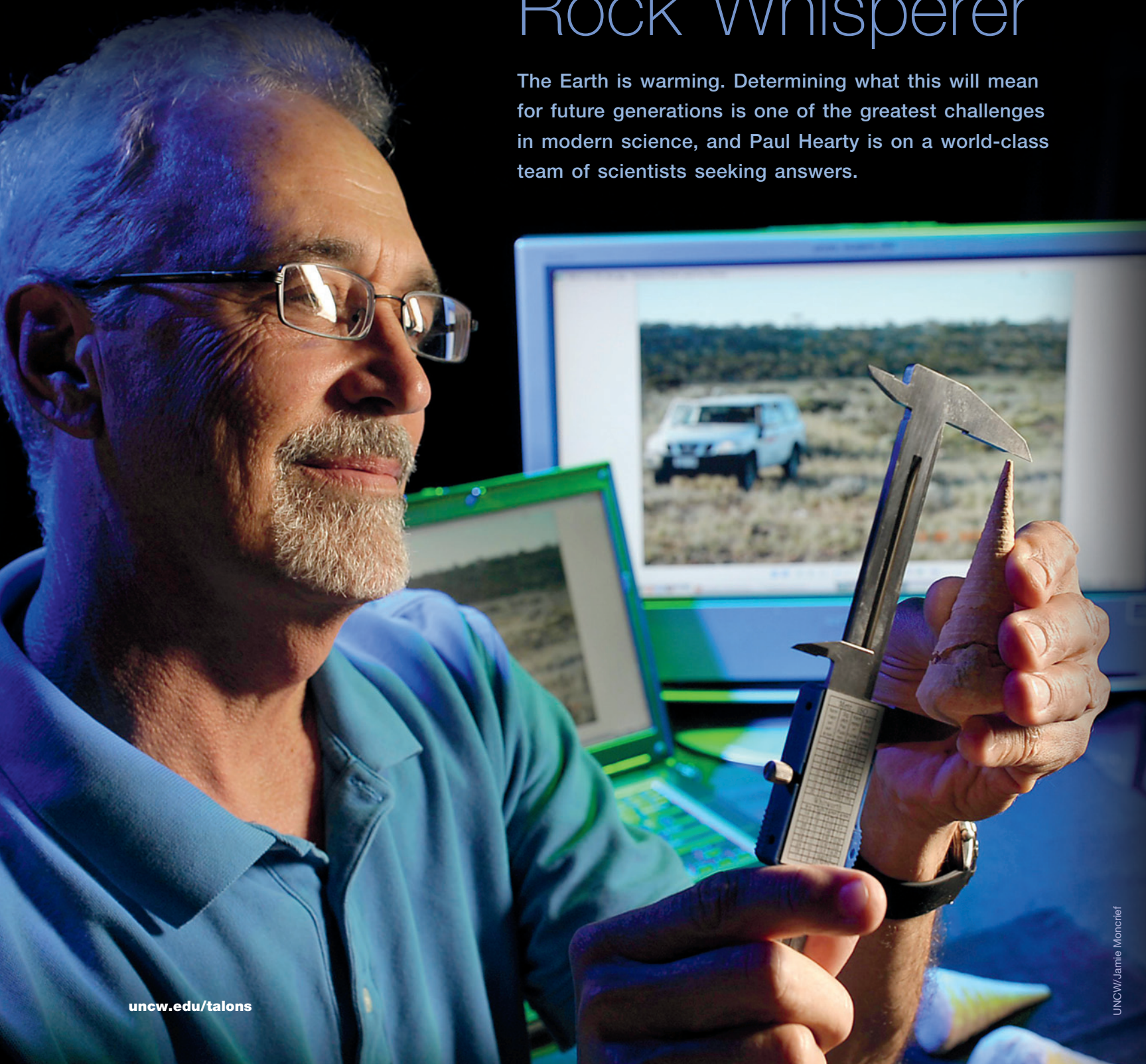
"Our students and faculty work in close partnerships with the community to discover and apply scientific knowledge that serves the public and produces tangible benefits to human beings in all their diversity."



by William Davis '08M

the Rock Whisperer

The Earth is warming. Determining what this will mean for future generations is one of the greatest challenges in modern science, and Paul Hearty is on a world-class team of scientists seeking answers.



An adjunct research associate professor in UNCW's environmental studies department, Hearty is one of five principal investigators on a grant to build a comprehensive model of past climate change by integrating elements of the world's crust, oceans, atmosphere and ice sheets, using fossil and geological data from an ancient warming period. The National Science Foundation has funded the five-year study for \$4.25 million, a rare achievement in an age when basic research budgets have been drastically cut.

Approximately 3 million years ago, the Earth was warmer. Global average temperatures were 2-3 Celsius (3.6 F to 5.4 F) greater than today. Known as the Mid-Pliocene Climatic Optimum (PLIOMAX), this interval has received renewed attention by researchers because its temperatures and atmospheric composition are similar to those predicted by global climate change models for the coming century.

"We have to go back 3 million years to find CO₂ (carbon dioxide) levels of 400 ppm. Our atmosphere, now at about 393 ppm, will easily reach 400 ppm (parts per million) by the end of this decade," said Hearty.

Over the next five years of the grant, the PLIOMAX team will tackle three major problems in climate science. In the first phase, they intend to use fossil and geological data collected at sites across the world to build a greatly improved database of sea levels and thus ice sheet behavior during the Pliocene.

"Geology has to drive this process. Geology provides first-hand information about the position and movements of sea level," said Hearty.

In a subsequent phase of the project, these data will feed into a series of experiments that will provide estimates of the global sea level under a variety of climate change scenarios. From this work, the team also intends to build a high-resolution comprehensive model of the world's atmosphere-ocean-ice sheet/shelf systems. The ultimate goal of the project is to better forecast the potential behavior of sea level and ice sheets in a warmer world.

For climate researchers, the Mid-Pliocene represents the last great warm period in Earth's history. As the era's climate roughly resembles the late 21st century projected by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it has drawn extensive academic interest in recent years. Agencies such as the U.S. Geological Survey and the British Geological Survey have begun major efforts to construct data models from this period.

While there is general agreement about the temperatures of the Mid-Pliocene, controversy exists about the extent to which these warmer temperatures and higher carbon dioxide levels affected global sea levels. Researchers agree that sea levels were higher during the Mid-Pliocene, but the magnitude of the rise has been hotly debated. Researchers' estimates have ranged from 10 meters (32 feet) to around 40 meters (131 feet) higher than today. Higher sea levels are directly tied to the melting of the world's polar ice sheets such as Greenland and Antarctica.

Hearty is hesitant to make predictions based on the past. He acknowledges the complexities of predicting the future through studying geological and modeling data. Climate science deals with a massively complex system, and the variables that led to sea level rise 3 million years ago included more than simple temperature and CO₂ relationships.

Even so, the most conservative estimates of sea level rise during the period would, if repeated in a warming future, dramatically change the shape of the world's coastlines. On a geological scale, measured in millions of years, the ocean has risen and fallen many times due to climate change. Hearty said important geological evidence of this can be found throughout Southeastern North Carolina, which once was submerged beneath the ocean.

Hearty will serve as one of the principal investigators on the grant, a prestigious spot on a project featuring an all-star team of researchers from the top universities in the United States. The project's leader, professor Maureen

Raymo of Columbia University, is recognized as a global leader in the field of paleoclimatology and paleoceanography.

Hearty has worked and published with the team for years, including leading a field expedition in Australia whose findings provided the rationale for the larger study. Raymo praised Hearty's fieldwork skills, calling him one of the best in the world at interpreting sea level changes from rocks and analyzing fossil data.

"Paul is an amazing field geologist with decades of experience looking at the coastal record of sea level change. I call him 'The Rock Whisperer,'" said Raymo.

The grant's other principal investigators—geoscientist Rob DeConto of University of Massachusetts-Amherst, physicist Jerry Mitrovica of Harvard University and earth scientist David Pollard of Pennsylvania State University—all have world-class reputations in their fields. In recommending the grant for full funding, the NSF reviewers cited the vast expertise of the team as a major factor in the decision.

Hearty's role will be to lead field expeditions collecting the fossil and geological evidence that will make up the raw data to be used by the ice and crustal modelers. One of the chief hurdles in accurately modeling the past and future behavior of global climate has been a lack of sea-level data.

By understanding the response of nature to past global changes, he hopes that future generations will be better prepared to deal with the anticipated effects of climate and sea-level changes.

"None of us think that in our human lifetime or even over several generations, sea level is going to rise 25 meters," said Hearty.

But it will rise. It has in the past, and it will again in the future. Hearty said that addressing these changes will be one of the major challenges of the world's future leaders.

"We're tinkering with a natural machine we don't understand," said Hearty.

athletics Hall of Fame

Sheila Boles '77

A two-sport student-athlete, Sheila Boles '77 played on UNCW's first women's basketball team in 1973 and was the school's first recipient of a women's basketball scholarship in 1974. She was a three-time team MVP and was named NAIA District 28 Player of the Year in 1976.

Boles, who also played on the volleyball team that captured the 1974 AIAW state championship, continued to excel upon graduation, earning recognition as an outstanding coach and administrator during her 31-year career. She coached boys' basketball locally at John T. Hoggard High School, compiling a 167-120 record in 11 seasons, and then served as the school's athletic director from 1999 to 2008.

Boles was named NCHSAA Athletic Director of the Year in 2008 and was inducted into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame and Greater Wilmington Sports Hall of Fame in 2011. She also was honored as a Colonial Athletic Association Legend.

Derek Brown '04

A long ball hitter with a cool temperament, Derek Brown '04 was a model of consistency for the UNCW men's golf team during his 2001-04 career. He led the team to its first CAA championship in 2004 and NCAA regional berths in 2003 and 2004.

Brown, who won the 2002 North Carolina Amateur title, was a four-time All-CAA selection with the Seahawks and captured three individual titles. He played in 46 tournaments in four seasons and recorded a 73.4 stroke average, tops on the all-time list for eight years.



Left to right:
Xzavier Chisholm
Sheila Boles
Derek Brown
David Jones

In 2004, Brown was the recipient of the Thomas V. Moseley Award as UNCW's top-student athlete. Brown competed on the Hooter's Tour and became the first Seahawk golfer to play in the U.S. Open when he qualified for the 2005 event at Pinehurst No. 2.

Xzavier Chisholm '02

Xzavier Chisholm '02 combined a gift for running swiftly with a tireless work ethic to reign as the track and field program's elite sprinter from 1998 to 2002. He propelled the Seahawks to four consecutive CAA championships. In the 2001 CAA meet, he swept the 100 and 200-meters as the Seahawks recorded the fifth of six straight conference titles.

When his collegiate career concluded, Chisholm had captured a remarkable seven CAA gold medals. He won the 100 meters three times (2000-02), 200 meters twice (2001-02) and ran a leg on the winning 4x100 Relay (2000) and 4x400 Relay (2000) units.

A 10-time All-East selection, he was also a member of the Penn Relay champion 4x200 Relay Team.

David Jones

David Jones has made significant contributions to the growth and prosperity of Seahawk athletics through his involvement as a philanthropist, business leader, civic leader and volunteer.

He was president of the Seahawk Club and member of the UNCW Board of Visitors and helped raise funds for scholarships, supporting all of the athletic programs.

He established an endowed scholarship, and in 1989 partnered with George W. Rountree III to provide funding for the Rountree-Jones Basketball Facility, a new home for the Seahawk men's basketball team. He received the Razor Walker Award in 2006 for his dedication to improving the lives of and educational opportunities for North Carolina's children and youth.

A well-known community leader, Jones has played a prominent role as a model citizen during his impressive career, including service as mayor of the City of Wilmington from 1999 to 2001.

by Samuel T.O. Branch

ma'hawk

Anyone who has been to a UNCW athletics event would recognize Mary Helm or at least the golf club covers masquerading as puppets on her hands.

"Ma Hawk," as the sprightly 69-year-old Helm calls herself after some students coined the nickname, has been sporting the mini-mascots since she spotted the duo at a booth selling Seahawk merchandise during the 2006 homecoming celebration.

"I just picked up one golf club head cover and put it on my hand. Then I picked up the other one and put it on and looked at it," said Helm, who attended UNCW for one year in the school's first year of existence. "Then I just turned around, held them up in the air to everyone in the tent and yelled 'Seahawks!'"

Helm has been using the puppets to cheer on the Seahawk faithful ever since, trying to ignite in others the same passion and pride she feels for UNCW.

But Helm's exuberance doesn't simply emanate from a long-standing affiliation with the university or a simple love of Seahawk athletics—she loves UNCW for what the school has done for others.

"This university has done great things for great people," Helm said. "I am very proud of the students and their achievements."

The help and guidance that UNCW provides for its students and others affiliated with the university is something with which Helm has a deep connection.

In 1970, when she married her first husband, John Small, the two moved to Maryland, where they worked at a state juvenile facility with 35 to 50 boys ages 15 to 18.

"I was the only woman counselor," Helm said. "I was like a mother to some of those boys. It was a forestry place, so they called me Ma Bear."

Small and Helm then opened a foster home for the same age group in the Washington, D.C., area. "It was my goal to make sure that every boy who came through there finished high school or got his GED and was prepared to go to either college, the military or a job," Helm said. "I have been in the business of helping people for my entire life."

After returning to Wilmington and remarrying, Helm began assisting at the UNCW Bookstore, where she was reintroduced to Seahawk athletics.

"One day a tall young man came in the bookstore, and I asked my co-worker, Mary Claude who it was," said Helm. "She said that it was Marcus Green, that he played basketball and sang at her church. I went up and met him, and I instantly loved him."

Helm began attending UNCW basketball games to watch Green, a forward who played in 120 games from 1998 to 2001. And when her father had a stroke at 82, Helm sought out Green.

"At the time, my father lost his desire to live. I asked Marcus to ask his church to pray for my father," said Helm, as she wiped tears from her eyes. "He is now 97 years old and still going strong."

And just like her father, Helm is still going strong—especially in her support of UNCW. The help that the university has given others continues to inspire her to cheer loudly for the athletics teams. She shows no signs of slowing down.

"I will try to save most of my energy for the Seahawks. And when I die, I want to be cremated and all of my ashes put in an urn, and the urn painted teal," Helm quipped.

Samuel T.O. Branch is a communications assistant with the UNCW Sports Information Office.



No. 11 for the Seahawks

The UNCW men's swimming and diving team claimed its 11th consecutive Colonial Athletic Association title by 57 points over second-place George Mason University.

Back-to-back for golfers

The men's and women's golf teams successfully defended their titles at the 2012 CAA Golf Championships. The women won their fourth crown in six seasons with a four-stroke victory over James Madison. Cindy Ho was named CAA Coach of the Year, and senior Sofia Hagsund earned First-Team All-CAA honors. The men captured their fourth crown by edging out Georgia State. Both teams received automatic berths to the NCAA Regionals.

New coach named

Former Wake Forest standout and Tusculum College head coach, Adell Harris was named the 10th coach in UNCW's women's basketball history in May. The High Point native who also coached at UNC Asheville, had a successful three-year stint as head coach of the Pioneers, guiding the NCAA Division II school to a 61-30 overall record, back-to-back Food Lion South Atlantic Conference Tournament championships (2010 and 2011) and three straight appearances to the NCAA Tournament.



by Tara Hardy '12

FEAST **DOWNEAST** *Bringing Local Farmers to Market*

from farm to table

"It is the first responsibility of the farmer to feed the village," said third generation farmer Lewis Dozier. As an opening speaker at the Second Annual Feast DownEast Conference, the owner of Dozier Grains and Produce, located in Brunswick County, described the program as a "win-win" for Southeastern North Carolina.

About 270 farmers, restaurant owners, school district representatives and retail vendors attended the February conference hosted by UNCW to discuss strategies to enhance Southeastern North Carolina's local foods market, making it easier for farmers to sell their goods and easier for regional food vendors and consumers to buy fresh ingredients.

Tony McEwen '01, who serves as the economic development officer for U.S. Rep. Mike McIntyre, agreed with Dozier. "It's a win for the economy, a win for the environment and a win for the health of the individuals."

Feast DownEast is an initiative developed by the Southeastern North Carolina Food Systems Program (SENCFS) to expand the influence of local farmers in the community by encouraging people to consume more locally produced food products. The program involves connecting farmers to local businesses and consumers to create a more economically significant and sustainable regional food system.

Leslie Hossfeld '83, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at UNCW, and Mac Legerton of the Center for Community Action in Lumberton, co-founded SENCFS in 2006. It started as an effort to address poverty due to massive job losses in the manufacturing industry in Southeastern North Carolina.

They later turned their attention to address other challenged economic sectors, specifically agriculture. Feast DownEast is working to create a fully integrated food system to alleviate poverty and to boost the economy.

"We look at how to help small scale farmers build capacity to participate in the new market," said Hossfeld. "We are creating a demand for local food."





Shane French '09 works the flat-top grill at the Burgaw Incubator Kitchen.

UNCW/Jamie Moncrief

a local success

Feast DownEast provides farmers with the support and resources to enhance their business. One of the most effective resources is a commercial-grade kitchen, located in the Burgaw Historic Train Depot, available for rent to farmers and food vendors who use local ingredients in their products. The Burgaw Incubator Kitchen is part of the Feast DownEast processing and distribution center and aids in the program's economic development efforts.

Mike Clay is the owner and founder of Custom Fit Meals, a local business that relies on area farmers and the Burgaw kitchen to produce fresh and healthy prepackaged meals. When he weighed 300 pounds, Clay decided it was time to make a change to live a healthier life. He began eating only fresh and local foods from natural sources. After losing 100 pounds in one year, he knew he was doing something right.



Chef Aaron Cannon of Custom Fit Meals slices through squash and kale at the Burgaw Incubator Kitchen.



A worker preps veggies for Custom Fit Meals.

"It changed my life forever," said Clay. "I was inspired to share my success with others."

He founded Custom Fit Meals to serve clients who want to eat healthfully, but lack the time to shop for and prepare their own cuisine. Two years ago, Clay began using the Burgaw Incubator Kitchen for Custom Fit Meals. He now has six chefs on staff to prepare and package meals using only fresh and local ingredients.

"It's not a diet, it's a lifestyle," said Drew Loesch, executive chef at Custom Fit Meals. "We have bacon, too. We prepare things in moderation." Clay's kitchen crew consists of energetic supporters of the organization's mission to improve the health and lives of others.

Clay said using a ready resource like the Burgaw Incubator Kitchen was "a great starting point. It allows us to focus on the product and growing the business."

Clay's business has been extremely successful; he was awarded the Burgaw Chamber of Commerce's Entrepreneur of the Year award and was a finalist for the Coastal Entrepreneur of the Year award from UNCW and the *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*.

"I've seen a lot of peoples' lives change," said **Shane French '09**. The former UNCW baseball player now works at the flat-top grill for Custom Fit Meals, preparing everything from turkey sausage patties and frittata fillings to sautéed vegetables.

The Burgaw Incubator Kitchen has received statewide recognition for its success and impact on local business. In November 2011 Governor Beverly Purdue visited Burgaw to present a Small Business Community Award, one of eight given throughout the state.



UNCW/Jamie Moncrief

a farm fresh feast



The breakfast and lunch menu at the Second Annual Feast DownEast Conference was prepared by UNCW Dining Services' chefs. Using only local products that were donated by farmers at the conference, they prepared a feast full of the freshest ingredients available. Some of the menu items included:

- Bagels
- Yogurt and granola
- Fresh fruit
- Collard greens
- Caramelized red onions
- Steamed clams
- Spaghetti with rabbit sausage
- Sweet potato cheesecake



buying local 101

UNCW Campus Dining continuously focuses its efforts on making its services more sustainable through recycling, energy conservation, waste reduction, growing ingredients on campus and buying food from local farmers.

Currently, campus dining invests more than 11 percent of its food budget on locally grown foods. Since Wagoner Hall, UNCW's largest dining facility, spends \$150,000 to \$200,000 a month on food, even a small percentage of that budget can make a big difference to local farms.

UNCW signed on to participate in the 10% Campaign in the spring of 2011. The campaign encourages individuals and businesses to spend 10 percent of their current food budget locally to help build North Carolina's food economy. About 4,500 people and 520 businesses currently participate. Several other N.C. schools have joined the effort, including: the University of North Carolina Greensboro, Duke University, Elon University and the University of North Carolina Asheville.

"We have had a very good response from students so far. They seem to really love it. We just need to continue to get the word out," said Rebecca Hendry, the Campus Dining representative on the sustainability committee at UNCW.

Campus Dining has also started several gardens to contribute to the sustainability effort, including a small hydroponics garden beside Wag-Out, the grab-and-go dining option located next to Wagoner Hall. This indoor, water-based garden is just one example of the many changes being made around campus to "go green" and, in this case, make campus dining more delicious and nutritious.

Campus Dining hosts the Chef's Table at Wagoner Hall every Thursday to showcase the chefs' skills at transforming ingredients donated by local farmers into a feast.

"Using all the different ingredients at the Chef's Table is like *Chopped*," said **Nick Denning '12** in reference to the hit Food Network reality cooking show. "This food would definitely not be on the Chopping Block."

The farmers are able to set up a table nearby to answer questions and provide students with information about the products they provide. The chefs are not the only ones who notice an improvement in the quality of their food.


"It's very flavorful," said **Brian Kurtz '12**, after tasting the Thai-chicken rice bowl served at a recent Chef's Table. The meal included vegetable sauté with sweet and sour sauce featuring sprouts and fresh lime basil grown on campus. "They made good use of all the ingredients. That was quite delicious!"

Across campus, students can access more local food at the Green Spot. This is the most recent addition to the dining options offered at the Hawk's Nest, located in Fisher University Union. Students can watch as their food is prepared using fresh local ingredients. Some favorite options include breakfast wraps with local turkey and eggs and barbeque sliders with local sweet potato fries. The Green Spot has quickly become one of the most popular choices among students, and competes heavily with Quiznos and Chick-Fil-A.

"The Green Spot is an answer to campus asking for more vegetarian and vegan options," said Matt Rogers, the food service director for Campus Dining. "It's very impressive and shows a lot about the students on campus."

Students can also find local products at the convenient stores located throughout campus. Cottle Organics was the first farm to be featured at Wagoner Hall as well as one of the first to supply the convenience stores on campus with fresh, local produce.

"It's nice to be able to produce good, healthy food that tastes good," said Herbie Cottle, the owner of Cottle Organics and father of two UNCW alumni. "We have been getting a lot of positive feedback from the students."

A woman with blonde hair tied back, wearing a white t-shirt with a green leaf pattern, is harvesting fresh herbs from a hydroponic garden. She is using red-handled scissors to cut a bunch of green leafy herbs, possibly parsley, which are growing in a clear plastic container filled with water. The garden is part of a larger indoor setup with various other plants visible in the background. The lighting is bright, highlighting the vibrant green of the herbs.

This indoor, water-based garden in Wagoner Hall is just one example of the many changes being made around campus to **“go green”** and, in this case, make campus dining more delicious and nutritious.



what can I do?

Feast DownEast encourages community members to be proactive and contribute to the local economy.

"It's about changing ways as a consumer," said Leslie Hossfeld '83, UNCW associate professor of sociology and Feast DownEast co-founder. "Food is cheaper in season and healthier because it comes straight from the farm. People need to think about eating seasonally and locally and look for restaurants that choose to serve local foods."

dining in

The easiest way is to buy from local farmers. Farmers' markets are a great way for people to get in contact with local farmers and to buy their products. Many communities have weekly farmers' markets; locally they can be found in downtown Wilmington on North Water Street, at Poplar Grove Plantation, Carolina Beach, Wrightsville Beach, Southport, Leland and, on occasion, even at UNCW.



Burgaw Historic Train Depot—where shoppers pick up and pay for their purchases.

The Feast Down East Buying Club offers a convenient way for area residents to get their fill of locally grown and produced foods. Shoppers log on at FeastDownEast.org and make their selections by product, farm or growing method. These are then taken to one of three drop off points—THE POD at UNCW, Cameron Art Museum or the

Also, there are a growing number of grocery stores that sell local food products. In the Wilmington area there are places such as Lovey's Natural Foods & Café, The Fresh Market, Tidal Creek Co-Op and Carolina Farmin.' Even chain grocery stores are stocking more locally grown foods.

"It's important to buy what's in season and buy what's a good value," said Linda Watson, one of the workshop leaders at the Feast DownEast conference. Watson is an environmental activist and author of *Wildly Affordable Organic*. Her book helps readers shop and cook in season on a budget. The book includes shopping lists, season charts, recipes and helpful tips. This is just one of the many resources for anyone who wants to start buying local.

dining out

Another way to buy local food products is to dine at restaurants that buy from local vendors. Owners understand the importance of providing customers with the freshest ingredients available. They also know that the best place to get these ingredients is right down the street.

"Having a relationship with farmers allows you to grow your business," said Tommy Mills during the Seasonal Menu Planning workshop at Feast DownEast. "You have to work closely with farmers to address your specific need." Mills is the owner of Little Pond Caterers, a local catering business that also hosts restaurant-style dinners at The Front Room.

Thanks to the growing popularity of the buying local trend, many online directories list restaurants that buy local. In the downtown Wilmington area some of these restaurants include Crow Hill, Circa 1922, Marc's on Market, Brasserie Du Soleil, YoSake and Catch.

"We try to buy as much from small organic farms as possible," said Derrick Cook, owner and chef at Crow Hill in downtown Wilmington. "This has a huge impact on the taste of our produce, seafood and meat. By buying our product locally and in season we assure our patrons the best tasting ingredients available."



The Feast DownEast conference offered a variety of informational workshops to help farmers, restaurants, schools and individuals learn how to create a more sustainable agricultural system. Topics included:

- Irrigation methods
- Farm-to-school and farm-to-university distribution plans
- Financing your farm
- Marketing your local food menu
- Pest management
- Local food policy update
- What every farmer should know about beekeeping



DARE TO SOAR

University of North Carolina Wilmington

INSTALLATION *of* GARY LEON MILLER





BEFORE A CROWD OF NEARLY 1,500 ALUMNI, FACULTY, STUDENTS, STAFF AND FRIENDS,
GARY L. MILLER WAS SWORN IN APRIL 20 AS THE FOURTH CHANCELLOR
AND SEVENTH LEADER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON.

FLANKED BY THEIR THREE CHILDREN, HIS WIFE, GEORGIA NIX MILLER, HELD THE BIBLE AS JUDGE ALLEN COBB ADMINISTERED THE OATH OF OFFICE. THE BACKDROP FOR THE CEREMONY WAS AN ENORMOUS BANNER HANGING FROM THE HOGGARD HALL PORTICO BEARING THE NEW CHANCELLOR'S THEME—DARE TO SOAR.



More than 40 events were held in the weeks leading up to the installation ceremony, celebrating the teaching, research and service of students, faculty and staff. The university's alma mater was updated for the occasion and performed by the UNCW Concert Choir and Chamber Winds.

Tom Ross, president of the University of North Carolina system, presided at the ceremony which brought greetings by Hannah Gage, chair of the UNC Board of Governors; George Teague, chair of the UNCW Board of Trustees; Gabriel Lugo, president of the Faculty Senate; Amy Ramsey, president of the Staff Senate; Sandra McClammy, chair of the UNCW Alumni Association; and Keith Fraser, president of the Student Government Association. Rev. Dr. Gary Blaine of Wichita, Kan., presented an inspiring invocation that focused heavily on imagery closely linked to the university's coastal identity.

Chancellor Miller was presented with a special bronze medallion created to recognize UNCW's traditions and history. With the university seal on the front, the medallion bears the names of previous leaders on the back and will be passed on to future university leaders.

A VISION FOUNDED on UNCW VALUES

From the beginning of his tenure, Chancellor Gary L. Miller promised that his vision for UNCW would be built on the university's deepest values. His vision reflects our hopes, dreams and expectations, but it is also designed to help UNCW face great challenges and opportunities in the years to come.

According to his vision, UNCW's strength lies in three enduring values:

A COMMITMENT to the JOURNEY of LEARNING

A LOVE of PLACE and

*AN UNSHAKABLE CONVICTION in the POWER of IDEAS
and INNOVATION*



"Our opportunity is not just to succeed; it is to lead. To do this, UNCW must connect with and affirm our deepest values. Our vision must touch and challenge the soul of our institution."



"More than anything else, I believe it is this commitment to the value of joining our students in their journey of learning that will distinguish us as a leader."



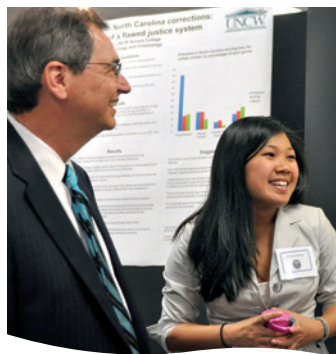
UNCW/Jamie Moncrief

Commitment to the journey

UNCW has always emphasized students' journeys to inquire and discover and, through those processes, better themselves and their communities. Our deepest and most sustaining value is our fundamental commitment to this journey. The university further strengthens these journeys through its time-honored focus on the collaboration of students and faculty in research and scholarship.

Challenges of the journey

- Evaluating the digital global economy's effect on the ways our students learn, communicate and perceive the world and how those circumstances impact our traditional learning models
- Full understanding of the changing nature of work and careers and becoming more intentional about preparing students to succeed in the 21st century
- Providing an environment that demonstrates the great variation in thought, culture, background and perspective that is contemporary America



Love of place

Our vision for the future must include a strong sense of place. To be a national and global leader in demonstrating how universities can serve their regions, we must come to understand and embrace the importance of our coastal location between the Atlantic Ocean and the Cape Fear River.

As North Carolina's coastal university, UNCW must utilize its location to explore modern questions related to commerce, human health, nutrition, the environment and social and cultural dynamics. There is no complete understanding of human history, the human condition or literature and music and art in the absence of the sea.

"In this way, we may serve the world even as we serve this region," Dr. Miller says.

Challenges related to place

- Increasing UNCW's emphasis on marine and coastal science in graduate education, research and the development of biotechnology from the sea
- Building programs and partnerships in our College of Health and Human Services that promote health and health research in our region
- Finding and promoting connections in our academic and engagement programs that highlight Southeastern North Carolina in a way that translates to coastal regions everywhere

The power of ideas and innovation

The chancellor challenges us to "invent the future" by embracing a culture of innovation. Creating this culture will involve examining traditions, taking risks, making difficult choices and accepting and learning from failure.

Under Dr. Miller's leadership, the university's innovative culture will build on UNCW's educational philosophy, which is rooted squarely in the liberal arts and sciences. Our ideals of inquiry, comparison, critical thinking and creativity are the perfect garden of invention.

Challenges of innovation

- Growing innovative research and graduate programs in the sciences, social sciences and humanities to advance our mission as North Carolina's Coastal University
- Exploring and experimenting with new and creative ways of delivering learning experiences for our students; developing different kinds of partnerships to promote research and to translate that research for the common good
- Becoming a leader in creating partnerships with other UNC campuses to meet the challenges of our time

Installation information edited by Marybeth Bianchi and Andrea Weaver

Photos by UNCW/Katherine Freshwater and Jamie Moncrief

Kelbleyscholar by Andrea Weaver

'imagineering' a new future at Disney World

Melissa MacKay '12 smiles as she remembers the person she was when she enrolled at UNCW four years ago.

"I am the girl who was voted 'shyest' for my high school superlatives," said the senior from Oak Ridge, a small town just outside Greensboro.

Not anymore.

MacKay discovered her voice at UNCW, the college that her mom prompted her to tour.

"I never lived anywhere other than Oak Ridge until I came to UNCW," she said, "but from the minute I stepped onto campus, I knew this is where I would belong for the next four years. My family and I went on a tour on a Friday and again on Saturday. I was absolutely in love with this campus."

The same qualities that captivated MacKay have recruited generations of Seahawks to UNCW.

"The tour guides were so enthusiastic about UNCW, and they were also very easy going," she said. "Not only were the students energetic and personable, but I noticed that the faculty and staff were also down-to-earth and friendly. The size of the school was a perfect fit for me, too. It is not too big or too small."

MacKay is a business administration major who chose to focus on marketing, a career field that practically requires an outgoing personality. She's a student ambassador who conducts campus tours and greets guests at functions sponsored by the Chancellor's Office. She also holds down a job in the dean's office at the Cameron School of Business, and she's a member of Alpha Phi International Fraternity.

For her senior year, MacKay received the Stephen and Kathleen Kelbley Scholarship, a prestigious merit-based award that funds in-state tuition, fees and books for a business major.

"Besides helping my family and me financially, being the recipient of this scholarship has improved my self-confidence and made me even more determined to be the best student and best person I can be," she said. "This scholarship and my experience at UNCW have changed my whole life and the person I now am. I am confident, happy, determined and excited to show the world the impact that UNCW has had on me, academically and personally."

MacKay credits the "plethora of opportunities" available at UNCW with helping her make the most of her college experience. She also served as an intern with the UNCW Alumni Association and studied abroad at the University of Sydney.

After graduation in May, she's moving to Orlando, Fla., to enroll in the Disney College Program, the first step in her long-term goal to land a position with the global Fortune 100 company.

"My dream job is to work for Disney World doing brand management," she said. "I'm very passionate about Disney World and feel this is a great way to try to work my way into their company. I cannot wait to see where my magical journey takes me."



Photo courtesy Melissa MacKay

The Campaign for UNCW

SCHOLARSHIPS JULY 2005-JANUARY 2012

- Raised more than \$66.5 million for UNCW
- More than \$29 million of that supports hundreds of scholarships, including the Kelbley that Melissa MacKay received
- Donors also created 239 new scholarships – an average of 37 per year compared to an average of 4 per year during the nearly 60 years prior to the campaign
- The overall number of UNCW scholarships more than doubled during the campaign

For more information about the Soaring to Greatness Campaign just completed, go online to www.uncw.edu/advancement/campaign

Enhancing services for public schools *by Andrea Weaver*

UNCW Trustee Wendy Murphy, a '93 Watson School of Education graduate, and her husband, Wendell Murphy Jr., want to help her alma mater enhance its programs and services for schoolchildren and teachers across North Carolina.

During The Campaign for UNCW, she and Dell endowed a distinguished professorship in education that emphasizes innovation, school reform and research in policy and practice.

"Educating our young people is a priority for us," Murphy said. "With a solid education, today's young people will become productive citizens and will give back to North Carolina in many ways, making our state a great place to live."

The future Murphy Distinguished Professor will focus on "academic achievement gaps, teacher quality,

decreased support for public education" and other challenges facing K-12 education in the 21st century, said Kenneth Teitelbaum, Watson School of Education dean.

"We expect that our new colleague in this position will help the Watson School of Education to become even more exceptional and prominent in the continuing conversations among educators and policymakers in North Carolina and throughout the United States," Teitelbaum said. "We are very excited by the opportunity that this distinguished professorship affords us – and we are immensely thankful to Wendy and Dell Murphy for their profound generosity to the Watson School."

Alumni and donors established eight distinguished professorships during The Campaign for UNCW, a comprehensive fundraising effort that raised more than \$66.5 million for the university between July 2005 and January 2012.

The Wendy and Dell Murphy Distinguished Professorship in Education, along with many others, received matching grants from the North Carolina Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund.

Distinguished professorships benefit students, faculty and academic programs. The university uses the support they provide to recruit and retain faculty experts who share their knowledge and

experience with students, colleagues and the community. These distinguished professors, as educators, mentors and scholars, enhance the university's prestige among peer institutions. Their research projects often bring in grants that benefit their departments and programs, and their outreach efforts contribute to the quality of life in North Carolina.

"Our university system is an asset to the state of North Carolina and provides valuable resources for all citizens, not just those students it is educating," said Murphy, the current secretary and former chair of the UNCW Board of Trustees.

She is involved with education on many levels. Murphy is chair of the board of directors at Harrells Christian Academy, an independent, college preparatory day school for grades K-12 in Harrells, N.C. She majored in elementary education at UNCW, and has been asked to serve on the Watson School advisory board.

"Our hope is that with this distinguished professorship, UNCW's Watson School of Education will be a leader in providing assistance to our K-12 schools throughout North Carolina," Murphy said, "whether it be improving teacher performance or, possibly, working with elected officials to help them make the best choices for our schools and our students."



DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS

- 8 new distinguished professorships established, doubling total number at UNCW
- 2 at \$500,000
- 6 at \$1 million or more
- The College of Arts and Sciences, the Cameron School of Business, the School of Nursing and the Watson School of Education received distinguished professorships during the campaign



Under the supervision of a Watson School of Education student (far right) in Richard Huber's middle school science methods class, students participating in the Junior Seahawk Academy and their teacher conduct an experiment on body temperature using probeware in the Watson School of Education science lab.

UNCW/Kristine Wetherill

UNCW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Catch the Seahawk spirit

Lounging on the beach listening to live music while waiting for your turn at bocce ball.

Catching a stray foul ball that made its way to the party deck during the Durham Bulls game.

Giving Sammy C. Hawk a high five as you walk together to Trask after filling up on party food in the TEALgate tent.

Maybe you have participated in a few alumni events and have experienced these memorable moments and more. You've seen smiling alumni welcoming you to the party, had a great time and then shared photos with your friends through Facebook.

But have you met the alumnus who had the great idea of hosting that bowling mixer in Raleigh or the beach reunion coming up in September?

Are you receiving invitations to alumni events? If not, update your information at www.uncw.edu/alumniupdate.

Alumni Beach Reunion
Sept. 22, 2012
Family & Alumni Weekend

At the core of all these programs are dedicated alumni volunteers who serve on regional and academic chapter steering committees, reunion planning committees and the association's board of directors. Each person is encouraged to share ideas to reconnect alumni, build alumni involvement and enhance Seahawk pride. The success of alumni programs is dependent on the cohesive efforts of these spirited individuals.

Alumni are also encouraged to provide feedback by participating in the annual alumni survey, emailed each spring.

"The purpose of the alumni association is to connect and involve alumni with the university and each other," executive director Rob McInturf said. "Insight and feedback is needed to provide programs and benefits that are relevant to our alumni."

Active alumni networks include:

- Cape Fear Area Chapter
- Charlotte Area Chapter
- Triad Area Chapter
- Triangle Area Chapter
- Cameron School of Business Chapter
- Communication Studies Chapter
- School of Nursing Chapter
- Watson School of Education Chapter
- African American Graduate Association
- Wilmington College

More information about these groups can be found online at www.uncw.edu/alumnichapters.



Chancellor Gary L. Miller with (left to right) the Young Alumnus of the Year Justin Queen '04, Distinguished Citizen of the Year Ann Sherman-Skiba and Distinguished Alumna of the Year Shanda Bordeaux '92. The UNC Wilmington Alumni Association hosted its annual alumni awards Feb. 3 at Kenan House. UNCW/Jamie Moncrief

2012 Alumni Award Winners

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

Shanda Williams Bordeaux '92 has been an active university supporter, serving on numerous boards and committees, never faltering in her passion to better UNC Wilmington for future Seahawks. She was a member of the UNCW Alumni Association Board of Directors for many years, serving as chairman from 1999 to 2000. She was recognized for her dedication and commitment to the association's efforts with an honorary lifetime membership. She has also served as president of the Seahawk Club Board of Directors. Bordeaux works in the registrar's office at Wilmington Christian Academy where she is also a counselor.

Marketing. He regularly speaks to classes in the Cameron School of Business and in the UNCW Department of Communication Studies. In 2007, Queen was named "Young Entrepreneur of the Year" by the Coastal Entrepreneurship Development Council.

DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Since moving to the Wilmington area in 2005, **Ann Sherman-Skiba** showed her support and commitment to UNCW and the Wilmington area through her tireless work as a volunteer and philanthropist. She devoted her time to the UNCW Board of Visitors, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Board of Advisors and the Cameron Art Museum. Sherman-Skiba was an active supporter of the university's history and music programs. Ann Sherman-Skiba passed away March 22.

YOUNG ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Justin Queen '04 has made a significant impact in the local community as a business leader and founder of the Wilmington-based Blu Zeus Interactive

2012-13 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL Chair

Sandra McClammy '03, '09M

Vice Chair

Wallace West '63

Secretary

Lauren Scott '06, '10M

Treasurer

Jody Burke '85

Past Chair

Marcus Smith '96

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Elaine Andrews '10M

Lolita Bryant '04, '10M

Chris Dean '87, '91

Ken Dieppa '09M

Jessica Riffle Edwards '04

Tom Gale '98

Matt Glova '07

Lee Grant '00

Brad Heath '96, '97M

Bill Heidenreich '92

Melissa Miller '96

George Spirakis '84

William Vaughan '92

Lee Watson '96

LIFETIME MEMBERS

John Baldwin, Jr '72

Shanda Bordeaux '92

Bob King '66

Jim Stasios '70

Ed Vosnock '71

REGIONAL CHAPTERS

Cape Fear

Chrissy Coor '01

Greater Charlotte

Jenson Claude '05

Greater Greensboro/Triad

Julie Patterson Landen '02

Triangle

Brad Barbour '02, '03

SCHOOL-AFFILIATED ALUMNI GROUPS

Cameron School of Business

Kevin Fanning '02

Communication Studies

Jenna Curry '08

Watson School of Education

Virginia Teachey

OTHER ALUMNI GROUPS

African American

Graduate Association

Linda Rawley '86

Wilmington College

Alumni Chapter

Jim Medlin '52

1950s

Anne B. McCrary '56 passed away Nov. 7, 2011. She was a professor of biology at UNCW from 1969 until 1990 and received the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1984. She was named UNCW Alumnus of the Year in 1986 and had a Wilmington city park named in her honor.

Jack F. Kirkland '59 of Southport passed away Feb. 19, 2012, following an automobile accident. He was retired but worked part-time at Lowe's Home Improvement.

1960s

Linda Wartens Murray '66 passed away Feb. 20, 2012. She was a member of Burgaw Baptist Church, teaching Sunday school there for many years.

1970s

Ray A. Buchanan '72, co-founder and international president of Stop Hunger Now, an international hunger relief agency that has provided more than \$70 million in direct aid and 53 million meals to people in 72 countries, received an honorary degree from NC State University in December 2011.

William F. "Frank" Bowen '74 passed away July 4, 2011. He worked at UNCW's Continuing Education Department and was the first executive director of the UNCW Alumni Association and served until 1989. He received the Distinguished Service Award in 1990 and Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1992.

Joyce Grimsley '74 passed away on Feb. 17, 2012, at age 78. She was a clinical social worker.

Richard H. "Dick" Powell Jr. '74 is president and CEO of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly. He earned a master's degree in divinity from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and is a graduate of the UNC Chapel Hill Management Development Institute and the Center for Creative Leadership in Colorado Springs.

Cecil R. Reynolds '75 had his book, *The Energetic Brain: Understanding and Managing ADHD*, published in February 2012. He is the author of more than 300 scholarly publications, author or editor of 33 books and currently editor of *Psychological Assessment*. He retired in 2008 from Texas A&M University where he was professor of educational psychology, neuroscience and Distinguished Research Scholar.

George Matthis '76 was appointed executive director of the Neuse Riverkeeper Foundation Board of Directors. He is a 32-year veteran with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and has experience working with North Carolina water quality issues. He teaches biology at Vance-Granville Community College.

Sheila Boles '77 was inducted into the 2012 North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and the UNCW Athletics Hall of Fame (see story on page 8). She was the first female scholarship athlete at UNCW and the first woman in North Carolina to coach a men's varsity basketball high school team. During her career at Hoggard High School, she also coached men's and women's golf and served as athletic director. She has received numerous

honors including the NCHSAA Courage Award and NCHSAA Athletic Director of the Year and served on N.C. Athletic Directors Association Board of Directors.

Debbie Bowman Lemon '78, '10Ed.D. is an instructional coach for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

Terry S. Harrison '79 was the official artist for the 2012 Azalea Festival.

1980s

Eddie Price '81, principal of South Johnston High School since 2010, is a doctoral candidate at NC State University.

James C. Burke '82, '01M had his book, *The Wilmington & Raleigh Rail Road Company, 1833-1854*, published by McFarland & Company Publishing.

Deb Cox Newton '83 practices criminal law in state and federal through her firm, Newton Law in Raleigh. She is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association, all three N.C. federal trial courts, Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals where she is a CJA Panel attorney and the United States Supreme Court Bar. Her daughter **Brittany Cox '10** is an actor in Seattle.

Mark S. Perlotto '83 launched Excitant Healthcare Advertising, an independent healthcare advertising and marketing agency in Woodstock, Ga.

Scott W. Walton '84 is a facility survey consultant for the N.C. Division on Health Service Regulation in the Department of Health and Human Services, located in Greensboro.

Sabrina Adams Hart '85 was named chief operating officer for global corporate in North America by Zurich. She has a certificate in strategic management from the Kellogg Business School at Northwestern University.

James C. Moore '87 was sworn in as police chief in Rocky Mount on Jan. 2, 2012.

Amy Ray Schnitzer '87 and her daughter were chosen to serve as models for an illustration that appeared on the cover of the January/February 2012 issue of *The Saturday Evening Post*.

Allen Thomas Jr. '88 was elected chairman of the Contemporary Art Foundation of Raleigh's Contemporary Art Museum in July 2011. An avid collector of contemporary art, he is the business manager for Thomas & Farris, PA in Wilson.

Todd Batchelor '89 is a partner with Cherry, Bekaert & Holland LLP, one of the nation's largest public accounting and consulting firms. With more than 17 years experience, he will assist and advise clients in all phases of accounting and financial reporting.

Eleanor Brown '89 is author of the book *Prayer: The Essentials*. She received her teaching licensure from East Carolina University and teaches in the children's ministry at River of Life Church in Raleigh.

James R. Merritt '89 is an associate professor of organic and medicinal chemistry at Kean University's New Jersey Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics. He

is the co-inventor of the drug Navarixin, a potential treatment for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

1990s

Larry K. Neal Jr. '90 had his first book, *Historic Spencer Shops*, published through Arcadia Publishing Company in August 2011. He is chief of museum services and education at the North Carolina Transportation Museum in Spencer.

Chris Helms '91 was named superintendent of Carolina Beach State Park by the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation.

Glenn Reed '91, principal of Blue Creek Elementary School, was named 2012 Wells Fargo Principal of the Year for the Onslow County School System.

Alan G. Moore '92 is an occupational audiologist with the Department of the Navy at the Navel Construction Battalion Center Gulfport in Mississippi with additional responsibilities at the Stennis Space Center. He manages hearing conservation programs and provides clinical audiology services.

Amy Burress Renfrow '92 passed away Dec. 12, 2011, at age 39. She was the principal of Corinth-Holders Elementary School and Sunday school teacher at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church.

Rob Tripp '92 received a Ph.D. in educational studies from University of Nebraska in May 2011. He is a Carolina Homeless Information Network-Homeless Management Information System coordinator with the North Carolina Housing Coalition.

Jakki Jethro '93, '96M is the principal of Sunset Park Elementary School.

David A. Rose '93 is the director of the Office of Educational Technology and Library Media Services with Washington, D.C. public schools.

Stephen P. Getzelmann '94 passed away Dec. 5, 2011, at age 43. He most recently was manager for Lowe's Home Improvement in Raleigh and was a member of Bridge Community Church.

Patrick Kay '94 and his wife Rebecca announce the birth of their son, Alexander James, on April 28, 2011. Patrick is a healthcare information technology analyst with NextGen Healthcare.

Dallas Romanowski '94 was elected treasurer of the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in January 2012. He is the founder of Cornerstone Advisory Partners in Wilmington.

Samantha Sellers '94 and Steven Smella were married March 19, 2011. They live in Leland.

Martha Jenkins Clayton '95 passed away at age 89 on Feb. 16, 2012. She was a member of Phi Alpha Theta and a well-known volunteer at Randall Library.

Jason B. Clubb '95, president of Uneo Business Services LLC, was honored by *The Business Journal* as one of the Triad's 40 Leaders Under Forty. The title is given to individuals who have distinguished themselves in their careers and community involvement. Jason said receiving the award "only fuels my passion to do even more to

help businesses in our community to succeed and to help inspire and equip this next generation of transformational leaders."

Daniel Gray '95 is commanding officer of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Maple*, a 225-foot multi-mission vessel that conducts maritime law enforcement, search-and-rescue operations and services aids to navigation in southeast Alaska.

David Stanley '95 was named Brunswick County Health Director in June 2011. He is a 15-year veteran of the health department. He received a master's degree in public health from UNC Chapel Hill in 2002.

Mary E. Mudge '96 passed away at age 50 on Feb. 9, 2012. She was most recently employed by the University of Virginia hospitals.

Annette L. Searfoss '96 is an assistant professor of education at Francis Marion University. She has a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Pennsylvania State University and a master's in early childhood education from Shippensburg University.

Erin Baker Van Dreason '95 and her husband Luke announce the birth of their daughter, Layla Blake, on Oct. 24, 2009. Erin is a project coordinator at Wells Fargo in Charlotte.

Kristen Kollmar Raynor '97 announces the birth of her daughter, Madison Elizabeth, on Oct. 12, 2010.

Suzanna Bolin '97, '00M was named Pender County Teacher of the Year for 2011. Suzanna teaches special education at Burgaw Elementary School.

Matt Allen '98 and his wife Angie announce the birth of their son, Hudson Alexander, on Jan. 20, 2012.

Brent A. Orr '98 graduated in May 2011 from the School of Advanced Military Studies at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College with a Master of Military Art and Science in theater operations.

Todd M. Sullivan '98 passed away Nov. 21, 2011, at age 37. He worked with his family's business, Sullivan's Highland Funeral Service and Crematory in Fayetteville and was recognized by the *Fayetteville Observer* as one of the "40 Under Forty" for being a rising leader for success in business and community involvement. He served on the foundation board for Fayetteville Technical Community College.

Megan P. Williams '98, a clinical professor at UNC Chapel Hill, will serve as president-elect of the North Carolina Nurses Association Board of Directors for 2013–15. She has been faculty advisor for the UNC-CH Association of Nursing Students since 2007 and serves on the N.C. League of Nursing Board of Directors.

Dain Butler '99 was appointed as the Alamance-Burlington School system's executive director of school administration and is pursuing a doctorate in education from UNC Greensboro.

John Cecil '99M is the vice president of stewardship for New Jersey Audubon. He leads a team working on the active management, restoration and recovery of habitat for the benefit of many kinds of species. He also has a key role

in the continued development of award-winning projects like Jersey Grown S.A.V.E.™ (Support Agriculture Viability and the Environment).

Christopher L. James '99 was appointed assistant administrator of the Office of Native American Affairs at the U.S. Small Business Administration. His responsibilities include coordinating and directing SBA programs while also promoting and enhancing small business services and opportunities for Native Americans.

Shawn King '99M was promoted to vice president of sales with Wastequip, a manufacturer of waste handling and recycling equipment. Shawn was recently named one of Charlotte's 50 Most Influential Women by the *Mecklenburg Times*.

Jennifer A. Merritt '99 was named store manager of TD Bank's Oleander Drive location in Wilmington. She is a volunteer with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Jill Raspet '99 was elected to the North Carolina Bar Association's Board of Governors. She will serve a three-year term ending in 2014. A member of Smith Moore Leatherwood's trust and estates team, Jill is a North Carolina Bar Board Certified Specialist in estate planning and probate law. She has a degree from Wake Forest University School of Law.

Jason Wheeler '99, '03M was appointed to the Greater Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in January 2012. He is a founding partner of Pathfinder Wealth Consulting in Wilmington.

2000s

Claudette Cohen '00M wrote the short story, "The Mayor of Biscoe," which won first place in fiction at the Southern Writers Symposium. It was also a finalist for the North Carolina Humanities Council's Linda Flowers Award and has been made into a screenplay. Claudette's poem "Telling the Loved Ones" earned honorable mention at the symposium. She won first place in short fiction and poetry in the anthology, *Taking Flight: Winston-Salem in Prose and Poetry*. Her poem, "Venus," will appear in the anthology, *Testing the Waters*, and her short story, "To Step into the Flood" appeared in *Cream City Review*.

Jennifer Stewart Dicksey '00 and her husband Chris announce the birth of their daughter, Saylor Faith, on Aug. 11, 2011.

Katie Gorbe Jacobs '00 says her degree in psychology helped prepare her for her role as director of programs for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Coastal Empire where she oversees three core programs which have served more than 1,100 children over the last three years. She lives in Pooler, Ga., with her husband John.

Aaron Ross '00 is a primary care physician with Kingsport Medical Associates in Tennessee. He is a 2008 graduate of Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine and is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians, Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians, American Osteopathic Association, American Academy of Osteopathy and American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Nathan Capestany '01 served two tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan with the U.S. Army. He is now a senior observer controller trainer within a training support battalion at Fort Hood, Texas, responsible for training National Guard and Reserve troops on counter-explosive techniques and protection war-fighting functions.

James Hills '01 of Bartlett, Ill., was promoted to lead format-wide social media programs for Sears and Kmart.

Stephanie Brooks Hawver '02 and her husband Jason welcome their second child, Walter Robert, on April 15, 2011. They reside in Denton, Texas.

David L. Minella Jr. '02 and Jennifer A. Jabbusch were married May 28, 2011. David is a public relations account supervisor at 919 Marketing in Holly Springs. The couple resides in Cary.

Terrance J. Murphy '02 earned the Chartered Financial Analyst® designation. He is a vice president and senior portfolio manager in the Healthcare Corporate Banking Division of U.S. Bancorp in St. Louis, Mo.

Melissa Warren '02, '07M was named 2012 North Carolina Southeast Region Teacher of the Year. She is the first teacher in Brunswick County to receive this honor in eight years.

Bradley N. '02, '04M and **Amy Campbell Whitford '00** announce the birth of their son, Campbell James, on Nov. 18, 2010. Bradley is a senior corporate accountant with Performance Fibers in Charlotte.

Meredith O. Biggerstaff '03, '05M and **Ryan Collins '04** were married July 23, 2011. Meredith works with New Hanover County Schools. Ryan is employed by Wells Fargo.

Shanna Bottoms '03 has joined the Rocky Mount office of AXA Advisors LLC. She is a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors.

Evan A. Erwin '03 received his juris doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University Shepard Broad Law Center in Fort Lauderdale.

Brian Harge '03 is co-founder of Sports Entertainment Gear which sells sound-activated illuminating T-shirts and accessories. The company is based in Las Vegas.

Bridgett O'Connell Lowery '03M started an artisan Italian food business called 416 Cuisine. She resides in Green Bay, Wis., with her husband, **J. Vincent Lowery '03M** and their son.

Jason C. Rollins '03 is an account supervisor in healthcare with MSL Atlanta, a communications/public relations firm. He earned an M.B.A. from Mercer University in Atlanta.

Chandra Roughton '03, '09M and her team were selected as finalists in the Emerging Issues Prize for Innovation competition, sponsored by NC State University. Their submission was based on an intensive digital storytelling summer program at UNCW's Watson School of Education.

Belinda Simmons '03 and Stephen A. Raleigh were married April 16, 2011. She teaches first grade at Town Creek Elementary School in Brunswick County.

Sarah C. White '03 and Dustin L. Thamm were married Oct. 15, 2011. She is a paralegal for Russell Goetcheus and Associates in Raleigh.

Brandon L. Ayscue '04 and Jennifer Baucom were married May 21, 2011. Brandon is a senior consultant in healthcare advisory services with Grant Thornton LLP in Charlotte.

Jennifer Glover '04, a probation officer since 2007, was honored as N.C. Department of Corrections Officer of the Year for 2011. Her involvement with the Gang Resistance & Intervention Teamwork (GRIT), mentorship of new officers and participation in the School Partnership Program were highlighted at the awards ceremony held in Raleigh.

Eli Hastings '04, **Angela Longerbeam '04**, **Hoang-Anh Tran '04** and **Daren Dean '03** are the founding editors of the new online literary journal *Cedars*.

Bradley W. Hutchens '04 and Margo MacNair were married Oct. 1, 2011. Their wedding party included **Chad Elmore '04**, **Aubrey Elmore '04**, **Will MacNair '12**, **Emily MacNair '07** and **Benjamin Jones '03**. Brad was promoted to senior sales consultant of ARAMARK Refreshment Services in Raleigh.

Philip Sutton '04M is the principal of Isaac Bear Early College High School.

John "Jack" Titchener '04 passed away Nov. 23, 2011 at age 89. After retiring to Wrightsville Beach, he returned to college in 1994 and graduated at age 82.

Brian S. Collie '05, '07M and Staci N. Parks were married June 11, 2011. Brian is the Caswell County planner. The couple resides in Yanceyville.

Michelle Harman Flanary '05 received a Master of Arts in education in secondary education from the University of Phoenix in 2007 and is pursuing a Doctor of Education in educational leadership in the School of Advanced Studies at the University of Phoenix. She is an English teacher at White Oak High School in Jacksonville.

Amanda Guld '05M is the director of professional development and training at Melmark, an organization serving adults and children with intellectual disabilities, acquired brain injuries, autism spectrum disorders and other neurological and genetic disorders. She has a Ph.D. in special education and applied behavioral analysis from Ohio State University.

Christine M. Hines '05 and **Orin C. Sharpe '03** were married April 18, 2011. Christine is a commercial mortgage loan administrator with Wells Fargo. Orin is a sales representative with Electrolux Corp. The couple resides in Charlotte.

Anna Kooiman '05 is a New York-based correspondent for the Fox News Channel. She covers health and fitness as well as general assignment reporting.

Jennifer M. Reingle '05 received her doctorate in epidemiology from the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions where she continues to work as a research associate.

Nina Conrad Allen '06 was awarded a master's degree in education from Elon University in August 2011.

Marybeth K. Bianchi

Shirl Modlin New

Katherine Freshwater
Jamie Moncrief

Samuel T.O. Branch
Joe Browning
Caroline Cropp '99 '06M
Joy C. Davis '06
William Davis '08M
Crystal George
Tara Hardy '12
Ronda L. Jackson '12
Brooke Keller '12
Andrea Weaver

Tara Hardy '12
Brooke Keller '12

Elizabeth Humphrey '03M
Andrea Weaver

Max Allen
Joy C. Davis '06
William Davis '08M
Dana Fischetti
Rob McInturf
Jamie Moncrief
Shirl Modlin New
Marla Rice-Evans
Andrea Weaver

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James Bonanno '06 developed and founded The Dirty Hog, a 12-mile adventure race and obstacle course to test competitors' strength, stamina, and smarts in Laurinburg.

Ben Boyatt '06 opened Kat 5 Kava in downtown Wilmington.

Kendall S. Cameron '06 is pursuing a master's degree in school counseling at the University of North Carolina Charlotte.

Ryan Crecelius '06, owner of Do Good Real Estate, created the first Benefit Corporation in Wilmington, donating 20 percent of sales commissions to local nonprofits.

Joseph N. Humphrey '06 is enrolled in the M.P.A. program at the University of North Carolina Greensboro and is the registrar for continuing education at Guilford Technical Community College.

Lucy E. Jones '06 and Matthew D. Roy were married June 3, 2011. The couple resides in Wilmington.

Meghan M. Maresh '06 and **Jason B. McCoy '06** were married Aug. 6, 2011. They met while attending the Cameron School of Business and actually sat beside one another at graduation due to the alphabetical order of their last names. Meghan is an account representative with CCS Medical, and Jason is employed by PPG Industries.

Allyson N. Mooring '06 and **Matthew Ridout '03** were married Aug. 20, 2011. Allyson is a senior lab technician at Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, and Matthew is an S&D Coffee route sales representative.

Jessica Phillips '06 exhibited her original ceramic work in the Canfield Gallery at the Martha Canfield Library. Her series of work was inspired by her summer travels through New England.

Kristin L. Hill '07 and William A. Allison III were married Oct. 15, 2011. The couple resides in La Grange. Kristin teaches at Banks Elementary School.

Michael J. Maalik Ul Mulk '07 is a senior associate in the consulting and advisory group with Porter Keadle Moore LLP in Atlanta.

Hillary M. Pierce '07 is pursuing an M.F.A. in documentary film at Wake Forest University. She is interested in organizing a film studies alumni event.

Lindsey Smith '07 and **Aaron Fulbright '08** are co-owners of Milk Run Donut Café in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Daniel N. Terry '07, '10M had his poems "Flattened Penny" and "Makeover" published in the summer 2011 issue of *New South*.

Stephanie Yandell '07 was promoted to volunteer coordinator for North American Disaster Relief at Samaritan's Purse.

Shannon Whitehead Beckerich '08 passed away Aug. 28, 2011.

Juliana D. Cahoon '08 and Brandon S. Mills were married June 25, 2011. She is program director with Sylvan Learning Center. The couple resides in Jacksonville.

Blake Cute '08 earned a master's degree in recreation management from SUNY Cortland. He is now a recreation assistant at the Institute of American Indian Arts College in Santa Fe, N.M.

Zack Drisko '08 signed with the Bauer Company in Beverly Hills, Calif., to manage his writing and directing career. He is working on a feature script, novella and graphic novel.

Carla Fisher '08 was named Columbus Charter School's 2011-12 Teacher of the Year.

Keith Kopka '08, '11M won a 'full-ride' teaching assistantship for a Ph.D. in English at Florida State University in Tallahassee. He will be studying literature, language and literary theory.

Caroline B. Paul '08 received her law degree from the North Carolina Central University School of Law. Her practice with MG&L Law in Raleigh focuses on general liability defense.

Kimberly R. Thomas '08 and **Christopher J. Taylor '08** were married April 30, 2011. Kimberly works for the *Roanoke Times*, and Christopher works for Travel Center Entertainment. They live in Roanoke, Va.

Rebecca Hobbs Willis '08 has her "dream job" promoting study abroad at the University of Canberra in Australia. She and Peter Willis were married July 10, 2010. She is interested in connecting with other UNCW alumni living in Australia.

Wesley Brown '09 works at Legion Studios and is the president of a non-profit theatre organization. He formed a theatre troupe in January 2010 and directed his first professional show, "Dr. Horrible's Sing-A-Long Blog." Another project was "Cannibal: The Musical" from Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the writers of *South Park* and *The Book of Mormon*.

Cassandra Buchanan '09 provides nursing services at the South Central Human Service Center, a division on the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

Russell Johnson '09 is the owner of Empire Bagel & Deli in Leland, which features a collection of fire and police patches from all over the United States.

Kathryn Mello Polk '09 is the owner of a small sewing business for new mothers and babies called Motherly Touch.

Ricardo Valea '09 received the IEEE Computing Now Volunteer of the Month award for developing the Computing Now iPhone app. This award recognizes volunteers making substantial innovations in content creation and delivery.

2010s

Ashley E. Blackwell '10 joined the Peace Corps and is stationed in Guyana as a community health education volunteer, working with local and international partners to implement various health initiatives focusing on family health, immunizations and HIV/AIDS.

Bradley G. Cottle '10 and **Kristin L. Robinson '10** were married Sept. 17, 2011. Bradley is a staff accountant at Williams, Scarborough, Smith and Gray LLP. Kristin is the human resources generalist for Hatteras Yachts. They reside in New Bern.

Patricia L. Harrell '10 and **Shaun R. Hayes '11** were married July 9, 2011. Patricia is a teacher at Northwoods Elementary School, and Shawn is a firefighter for the city of Jacksonville. They reside in Maple Hill.

Hannah Lane '10 is the director of marketing and communication for the Wilmington-Cape Fear Home Builders Association.

Zach McLaren '10M works with Mohr Partners Inc. in Charlotte providing office tenant representation services.

Jaclyn Miller '10 was awarded a second Georgia Sea Grant internship for 2011-12 year. This internship program is a nationally recognized marine education program for the University of Georgia's Marine Education Center and Aquarium on Skidaway Island, Ga.

Molly Hollifield '11 is on the commercial products team at South-Tek Systems, a leading nitrogen generator company.

Lindsay Key '11M is the communications officer for the Fralin Life Science Institute at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She is developing and maintaining the institute's communications plan, website and related print and electronic materials.

Ariana Nash '11 was awarded the Philip Levine Prize for Poetry for her thesis manuscript "Instructions for Preparing Your Skin" being published by Anhinga Press.

Mark Royer '11 is a master's degree student studying sharks at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology.

Ginny Shepherd '11 is an account coordinator in the account management department of Howard, Merrell & Partners. She assists in the development and management of client campaigns for Georgia-Pacific Professional.

Leisha Sitton '11 is the owner and operator of a luxury tanning salon in Wilmington called Skin Resorts.

Friends

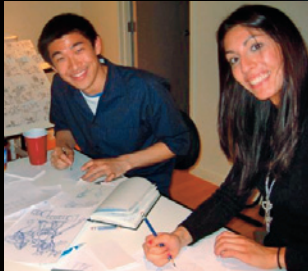
Louis H. Adcock passed away Nov. 18, 2011. He was one of the original members of the UNCW chemistry department where he taught for 47 years.

Eileen Brown passed away Oct. 10, 2011. She had been on the faculty of UNCW since 1988 and was government documents librarian at the time of her death.

Kathy Rugoff passed away Oct. 23, 2011, at age 59. She taught English at UNCW for 24 years.

Betty Ann Sanders passed away Oct. 18, 2011, at age 81. She was the host of "Let's Talk! - UNCW and You" from 1998 to 2000 and "Let's Read" from 2000 to 2008, which aired on UNCW-TV. She was a member of the UNCW Board of Visitors from 1998 to 2007 and funded a scholarship for the UNCW School of Nursing.

by Ronda L. Jackson '12



find the passion never let it go

Born in the most populous city in China and then moving to central North Carolina at age four, **Shaofu Zhang** came to UNCW with a strong interest in film studies. At the very start of his freshman year in 2002, Zhang's desire to become successful was acknowledged by faculty and students alike. It was his continued ambition that led him to one of his biggest accomplishments—a Student Academy Award.

The Student Academy Awards is a national student film competition put on by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the same organization that awards the Oscars. It honors outstanding student filmmakers from around the world in five categories: alternative, animation, documentary, foreign and narrative. Zhang is the first UNCW graduate to receive the prestigious honor.

UNCW associate professor Eric Patterson heard the news during a conference at Sony Pictures Imageworks where Zhang works as an animator. Zhang and his two colleagues, Lisa Allen and Bernardo Warman, received a gold medal in the 38th Student Academy Awards in the animation category for the short film *Dragonboy*.

The making of *Dragonboy* was a long process that often consisted of 16-hour workdays, seven days a week, for the

three graduate students at the Academy of Art University. It took one and a half years from start to finish to write the script, develop the storyboard and create the visual component of the film.

"The last couple of months of *Dragonboy* I couldn't tell reality from sleep," Zhang said. "We realized from the very beginning that if we want to do this we needed to aim high."

During his time at UNCW Zhang was involved with the Flicker Film Society as publisher of the organization's magazine and perfecting his skills with graphic design and visual effects. The society also gave him hands-on experience directing and producing.

"Zhang seemed ahead of his time as far as skills and ambitions. He knew where he was going, and he had a plan to achieve his dreams," said Terry Linehan who taught him Introduction to Screenwriting.

After graduating in 2006 with a degree in film production and a minor in journalism, Zhang worked at Screen Gems Studio in Wilmington for a year before deciding to continue his education in film.

"I developed an interest in visual effects which started as a hobby where I learned the aspects of the crazy special effects that go into films," he said.

He set out to San Francisco to pursue his interest in animation and character effects. He received his Master of Fine Arts degree in 3D animation at the Academy of Art University which is where he began production on *Dragonboy*.

Today, Zhang is working on an animated feature film at Imageworks, creating the physical and acting performance of a character in the film.

Shaofu said the film studies program at UNCW laid the foundation that he constantly uses in his job. Everything from cinematography to pacing and rhythm and all the things in between were invaluable to him in graduate school and now at Imageworks. The opportunity to direct his own films at UNCW supported his drive and confidence to create *Dragonboy*.

"I will say though, that like anything else in life, what you put into it is what you get out of the program," Zhang said. "A lot of what it comes down to is simply love of what you do and having that passion to push through the hard times."

His advice for students: "Find the passion that will keep you going and never let it go."

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIRMxJOtfMY



by Brooke Keller '12

Building bridges

Victoria Del Velazco '08 is a role model who is making a difference in her community.

The El Salvador native, who came to the United States in 1990, overcame language and cultural barriers that every first-generation immigrant faces.

"When I moved to North Carolina 19 years ago there were no Hispanic students in my classes. The ESL teacher only came once a week for 30 minutes. It was hard not speaking the language and not having friends," said Velazco.

She left New Hanover High School during 10th grade, but returned to school at Cape Fear Community College in 1995 then transferred to UNCW. "I have always been involved in social work with the Latino community, but wanted to do it professionally," said Velazco. She graduated in 2008 from UNCW with a bachelor's degree in social work.

"The professors and staff were so helpful because they met me where I was academically, they challenged me and held me accountable like everyone else," said Velazco.

Inspired by the idea that people can make an impact on the world around them, the mother of three is very active in the Latino community helping others break the language barrier and easing their cultural transition. She noticed there was no information available for Latino parents that took into account the cultural, language and social barriers presented to the first-generation immigrants.

"As a Latino parent I have always wanted local, culturally appropriate information about parenting, but couldn't find any information in Spanish. The Latino community is vibrant and alive here in Wilmington. We have children and spend our money here, too. Like everyone else, we also need help," said Velazco.

After much preparation, the first *VIDA Familiar Latina* magazine was distributed in December 2011. The magazine is designed to break the language barrier and provide resources Latinos need in Spanish while celebrating and encouraging the Latino families.

"*VIDA Familiar Latina* is a diverse magazine connecting people to each other and learning how to work together to overcome the barriers presented. I'm being the bridge connecting people, giving them a place to talk and learn," said Velazco.

Every month a student is highlighted in the magazine to celebrate his or her accomplishments in school. "I want to celebrate people in the Latino community who are doing good things," said Velasco.

The magazine is printed in both Spanish and English and discusses a variety of topics such as parenting, finance, health and education. Most of the writers are bilingual professionals from the community as well as non-profits, who write about their services to get their message out to the community. Edelmira Segovia, director of Centro Hispano at UNCW, writes the education column that teaches parents how they can help their children while also providing information on the American school system.

"Out of 100 Hispanic elementary school students in the U.S., only 13 achieve a bachelor's degree," said Segovia, noting that Velazco is breaking stereotypes and building bridges between the Latino community and the community at large.

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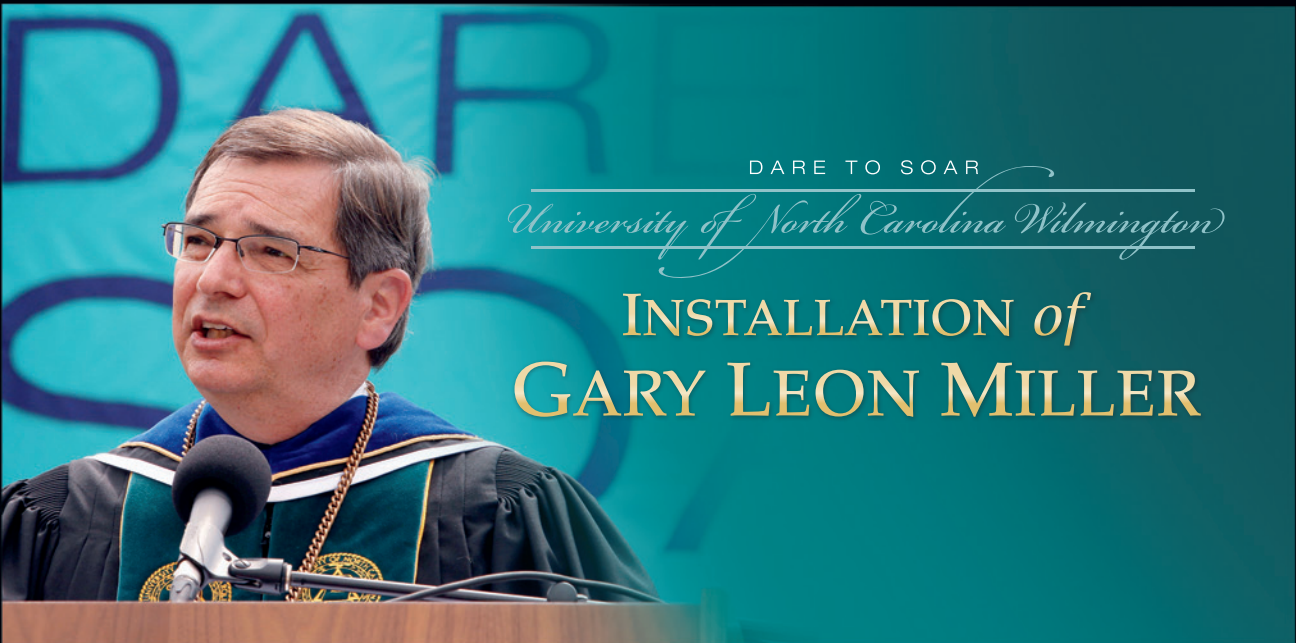


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